



# THE GREEN SCENE

## Jim McCarthy Receives LA County STARS! Award

Department Facility Planner I Jim McCarthy recently received the LA COUNTY STARS! Recognition in the category of Service Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness at the Board of Supervisor's meeting. Jim is the LA COUNTY STARS! recipient for January 2011.

Jim has coordinated construction of everything from gymnasiums and swimming pools to equestrian trails and trailheads. He has conducted hundreds of meetings with citizens impacted by these projects. Jim goes above and beyond the obligatory and always makes himself available to explain projects, solicit input and facilitate compromises. His outreach and "plain speaking" have earned him the respect and affection of community members, thus assisting the Department to accomplish its goals of creating, improving and enhancing parks, open spaces and trails. Jim is able to quickly identify potential trouble areas; his ideas are thoughtful, practical and cost-effective. He helped establish the Michael D. Antonovich Open Space Preserve, drafted mitigations to preserve more than 6,000 acres through the Newhall Ranch development project, and assisted in expanding the "Rim of the Valley Corridor."

Jim's vast knowledge, attention to detail, and extensive experience with multiple agencies allows him to directly contact the decision makers to resolve problems and streamline procedures and improve processes.

Jim always takes responsibility for seeing that any job is done correctly, to ensure a safe working environment, to identify and resolve problems that arise due to construction errors, and to solicit input from the public as to what is wanted and needed.

Often times Jim takes the lead in collaborating with other agencies and municipalities where a joint effort is required. For example, he formed a committee for the Santa Clarita Valley trails to study realignment of the County Master Plan of Trails to resolve issues with blockage that had occurred over the years and to create a comprehensive plan to implement future trails. The plan was adopted by the City of Santa Clarita and the County of Los Angeles.

As a planner of quality parks, a protector of our natural resources, an advocate for trails and open space, and an active participant in the life of his community, he is widely recognized as a leader, a motivator and an inspiration to others.



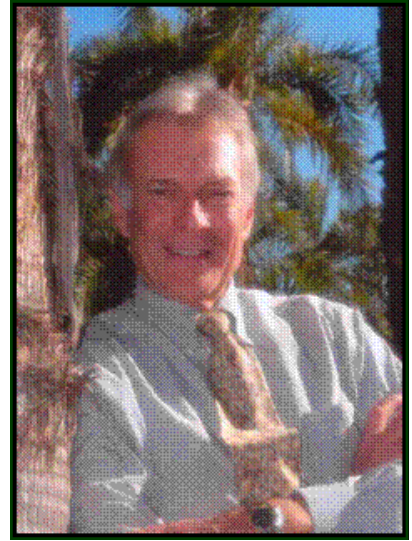
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# Congratulations Jim!

## Greetings from the Director

Now that the first month of 2011 is over, I hope you all have had ample time to get your new year's resolutions in order and are resolute in accomplishing them! Here at Parks and Recreation, I think our new year's resolutions remain consistent with the goal of continuing to get better and better with each passing year. Our mission to serve the public and increase their quality of lives through our beautiful facilities, programs and activities is a constant. But it's in the betterment of this mission that we frame our resolutions. As an example, this past holiday season was remarkable for us. As always, our Department put on special events open to the public, many of which included free holiday meals and free toys for children. The result was a staggering 21,516 free meals served and an equally astounding 27,128 toys distributed to children. Making the experience more special for the people accepting these meals and toys were all of you. Your outstanding efforts came not just from a duty to your profession, but from the heart. It is in these ways that we truly make a difference in people's lives. I want to personally thank all of you for all that you do! *Parks Makes Life Better* and you are an important part of that mission!



*Russ Guiney, Director*

**Parks  
Make  
Life  
Better!**

## Placerita Nature Center Welcomes Russell Kimura



Russell Kimura, a 25-year resident of Valencia joined Placerita Nature Center as the new Superintendent on January 3, 2011. Russ, as he likes to be called, is a graduate of California State University Los Angeles and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Biology. Russ has worked for the California Department of Parks and Recreation as a Supervising Ranger for the Office of Community Development for more than 25 years. For the last nine years, he has worked under the Deputy Director of State Parks doing community outreach, youth leadership, outdoor youth programs and FamCamp training. The previous 16 years he worked as a State Park Ranger patrolling the Santa Monica Mountains and protecting Malibu Lagoon State Park, Topanga State Beach and Will Rogers State Historical Park. Before joining Parks and Recreation, Russ also worked as a science teacher, fish and wildlife aid, agricultural inspector, fish curator, sports-fishing deck hand, and an assistant manager in a Japanese fish market.

During his spare time, he enjoys fishing and camping with his 12-year-old son and his wife and stays busy with his son's baseball and basketball travel team. In between practices and games, he tries to catch a Lakers or Celtics game!

**Welcome Russ!**



## Sorensen Park Gymnasium Groundbreaking!



By any measure, Stephen Sorensen Park is just about the most remote park in our County Park system. Located in the tiny Antelope Valley town of Lake Los Angeles, the park answers a huge need for all the small communities scattered in the Northeast Antelope Valley. It is a gathering place, an oasis, a place for ball games on summer evenings and picnics under the shade trees. During the winter and many summer days, the harsh high-desert weather keeps all but the hardiest from being able to enjoy the park. That is about to change.

On January 21, 2011, residents of Lake Los Angeles and surrounding communities joined Mayor Michael D. Antonovich and Director Russ Guiney in a Groundbreaking Ceremony for a new 14,800-square-foot, \$11 million park gymnasium and community center to be constructed at the park. Everyone from members of the Town Council to mothers with small children, seniors, the local Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and even the remarkable Littlerock High School Jazz Band, turned out to celebrate this milestone event. Although the gymnasium won't be finished until mid-2012, residents learned they will be able to enjoy a beautiful \$1.2 million splash pad that will be completed later this summer.



## **Service Anniversaries October 2010**

### **40 YEARS OF SERVICE**



**Roy Williams, Regional Operations  
Manager – Regional Facilities**



**Kenneth Hopper, Assistant Regional  
Recreation Director – South Agency**

### **35 YEARS OF SERVICE**



**Kandy E. Hays, Administrative Services  
Manager III – Administrative Services Agency**

### **25 YEARS OF SERVICE**



**Robert Welch, Supervising Lake  
Lifeguard – Regional Facilities**



**Camille M. Johnson, Management  
Secretary III – Planning & Develop-**

## **Service Anniversaries October 2010**

### **25 YEARS OF SERVICE**



**Lillie Munoz-Ledo, Management  
Secretary III – South Agency**

### **20 YEARS OF SERVICE**



**Eduardo "Eddie" Aleman, Departmental  
Personnel Assistant –  
Administrative Services Agency**



**Miguel Felix, Crew Instructor –  
South Agency**



## **Service Anniversaries November 2010**

### **30 YEARS OF SERVICE**



Dwight La Croix, Facilities Operations  
Manager I – South Agency

### **20 YEARS OF SERVICE**



Maria E. Chavez, Senior  
Secretary III – East Agency  
(Darlene Torrez accepting  
in photo)

## Service Anniversaries December 2010

### 40 YEARS OF SERVICE



George Harrell, Transportation Truck Driver  
– Regional Facilities

### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE



Penny Daniels, Recreation Services  
Supervisor – North Agency



Arcelia Navarrete, Accountant II –  
Regional Park and Open Space District

### Service Anniversary Celebrants Not Photographed

**Kenneth Fletcher**, Transportation Truck Driver – Regional Facilities –  
25 Years of Service

**Antonio Soltero**, Grounds Maintenance Worker – Trails Division –  
25 Years of Service

# HIGH FIVE!

## For Those Who Go Above and Beyond...

I am the supervising site Judge of the Pomona-North courthouse. This letter is to commend the men and women of the **Tree Farm Program** and to formally acknowledge the wonderful service this program provides to my court as well as the other courts in the East District. The reputation of the Tree Farm Program is beyond reproach. The director of the program, **Mr. Tom Loria** runs a well organized and efficient program, ensuring that the court is kept informed at all times of the progress of defendants assigned to the program. I had the opportunity to visit the Tree Farm in La Verne. I was quite impressed to say the least; with the dedication of the crew leaders and how well organized and efficient the process was carried out. I am very grateful to Mr. Loria for allowing me to tour the facility as well as taking the time to give me the tour and answer my questions.

*Judge Juan Carlos Dominguez*  
Pomona-North  
Los Angeles County Superior Court

Our production crew from Let's Go LA raved about the great shoot they had at **Whittier Narrows Regional Park**. They said all three segments turned out well and will be great for this month's show. Thanks again (**Imee Perius**) for your critical help and making yourself available to assist our County Channel folks. Looking forward to having a great show about Whittier Narrows!

*David Sommers*  
Multimedia Communications Director  
County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office

I would like to commend **Joyce Gibson** for her exceptional work assisting me and the film crew with all logistics including setting up interviews and concessionaires for the three segments of the show. Joyce and her staff went above and beyond their call of duty by being at the park yesterday and assisting in every way possible. It is people like Joyce and her staff who make working in Parks and Recreation easy, fun and a success.

*Imee Perius*  
Public Information Officer

On behalf of myself, my staff and the consumers we serve, we would like to thank you and your staff for being so helpful and for allowing us to hold our annual holiday event for consumers on December 8, 2010 at Hart Hall in the **William S. Hart Regional Park**. Many consumers approached me and my staff remarking how "beautiful" Hart Hall and the surrounding grounds were. The setting truly helped to make the event a success! We couldn't have done it without you! All of your staff were incredibly professional and so helpful with any questions we had. **Cheryl Hazama** was especially helpful with any questions we had throughout previous months before the event.

*Michelle Majors, Psy. D.*  
Mental Health Clinical Program Head  
County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health

## GIVE Someone a HIGH FIVE!

Do you know someone in our Department who deserves special recognition? Maybe you were on a tight deadline and that person helped you meet it. Maybe you were having a tough work day and that person helped you beat it. You know who those people are, the ones who go above and beyond. Help us recognize them. Email their name and a short paragraph of why they deserve a High Five! to [iperius@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:iperius@parks.lacounty.gov) and we'll do our best to include them in the High Five! column of The Green Scene.



## County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

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Mayor  
Fifth District

**Gloria Molina**  
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Second District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Third District

**Don Knabe**  
Fourth District

## Department of Parks and Recreation

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Director

**John Wicker**  
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*The Green Scene is published  
by the Public Information  
Office*

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